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To reject (a proffered gift) is waste.  
 What has been at the top of the sack will go to the bottom \*  
 He, that was once a man, has become no man †.  
 Who covets honour should be powerful.  
 He, that desires praise, let him die.  
 He, that desires a pressing offer, let him appear sick.  
 Who covets health should be cheerful.  
 What has been got on the horse of Malen will be spent under  
 his belly ‡.  
 He, that hoards, shall have when he wants.  
 What the old crow croaks the young one will echo.  
 The man, that complains too much, does not complain at all.  
 Even the morsel of a stag is charity §.  
 Patience is the limit of knowlege.  
 Before we act, we should propose.  
 The solicitude of a dog for a bag of salt.  
 Crows are more numerous than hawks.  
 Where there is no love, there will be abundance of censure.

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## BARDIC NOTICES.

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*To the EDITOR of the CAMBRO-BRITON.*

SIR,—One of our *desiderata* in Welsh Literature is a short Biographical History of our Bards, for want of which many parts of their works are scarcely intelligible. Mr. William Owen Pughe has done something in this way in his Cambrian Bio-

\* The Arabic proverb on the contrary says, “What was a hip has become an arm.”

† This is the literal translation of *adyn*, which, however, implies also a miserable being, a wretch.

‡ The liberal signification of this proverb is, that what has been acquired by violence or rapine soon perishes. Hence perhaps the English adage, “What is got on the Devil’s back,” &c.;—and to the same effect is the maxim of Plautus, “*Malè partum malè disperit.*” Some account of Malen, probably synonymous with Bellona, was given in the 4th Number of the CAMBRO-BRITON, p. 125.

§ This has reference to the following ancient custom. When a stag was killed it was divided, according to the laws of hunting, amongst all persons present. And every one, that might accidentally arrive before the deer was skinned, was entitled to a share. For stag-hunting was one of the three common games.

graphy ; but I was greatly disappointed, on consulting his work, in not finding the name of our celebrated bard Tudur Aled \*. As a commencement of such an undertaking, and in order to induce some others of your correspondents to contribute any information on this subject, of which they may be possessed, I have transcribed the following short notices out of my own collection. I am yours, &c.

P. B. W.

Rhys Goch o Eryri was a man of good family, and lived at Hafodgaregog, near Pont Aberglaslyn, in the county of Merioneth. He flourished about 1400. There is a quillet on Grosor Farm, in Nannmor, called Llys Dafydd Rhys ; this Dafydd was father of Rhys Goch o Eryri, as it is generally supposed.

Iolo Goch flourished in the times of Edward III. Richard II. and Henry IV. He was a great favourite with Owain Glyndwr, and wrote many panegyrics on him when in power. Iolo was Bachelor of both Laws, and was Lord of Llechryd, and lived at Coed Pantwn, in the county of Denbigh. He was ancestor of Paul Panton, Esq. of Plás Gwyn, in the county of Anglesey.

Guto'r Glyn was an excellent heroic poet, and flourished about the year 1450. He was a native of the beautiful vale of Llangollen, in Denbighshire, and was domestic bard to the Abbot of Valle Crucis or Glyn Egwestl (or Eglwyseg) Abbey, near that town †. He celebrates the munificence and hospitality of the Abbot in several of his poetical compositions, and laments, that he was so unwell one Christmas, that he could not partake of the festivities in the hall or of the dainties on the Abbot's table. He was well known to the Herberts of Raglan in Glamorganshire, as it was the practice of the Bards in the days of Popery to make a poetical tour or circuit through all Wales every third year, in order to contend with each other in extemporaneous poetical effusions, and partake of the good cheer at the gentlemen's seats during the Christmas holidays ‡.

\* It may be proper to mention, that the **CAMBRIAN BIOGRAPHY**, here alluded to, is not dedicated exclusively to an account of the Bards, but embraces short biographical notices of all, or almost all, Welshmen of any celebrity. And the author is entitled to the merit of having been the first, and as yet the only one, to attempt any work of this nature in relation to Wales. The interesting Notices, here furnished by P. B. W., are, for the most part, in addition to those published of the same individuals in Mr. Pughe's work.—ED.

† See **CAMBRO-BRITON**, No. 2. p. 55.—ED.

‡ This custom was, at one time, common in Wales. It was called *Clera* or *Cylch Clera*, and signified a circuit, which was made by poets and musi-

Meredydd ab Rhys was a clergyman, and lived at Rhiwabon in Denbighshire, and flourished about 1440. He was Dafydd ab Edmund's tutor.

Lewis Glyn Cothi was most probably a native of the banks of the river Cothi in Carmarthenshire. He was an eminent bard, and an officer under Jasper Earl of Pembroke, in whose praise he composed many poems. He flourished about the year 1450.

Llawdden resided at Machynlleth, and is supposed to have been curate of that place. He flourished about the year 1450. It is conjectured, that he was a native of Llychwr or Cas Lwchwr near Swansea in Glamorganshire, and there is reason to suppose, from some of his poems, that he resided occasionally in Radnorshire.

Dafydd ab Edmund was the proprietor of Hanmor or Hammere, and lived at Pwll Gwepre, in the county of Flint, but his son sold the estate. At an Eisteddfod, or Congress of Bards, held at Carmarthen, where Griffith ab Nicholas (the valiant Sir Rhys ab Thomas's grandfather) was umpire, he won the poetical prize. The Eisteddfod lasted fifteen days. To the prolific brain and fertile imagination of this renowned son of genius we are indebted for the invention of several Welsh metres now in use. He flourished A.D. 1450.

Ieuan Deulwyn lived at Pen Deulwyn, near Kidwelly, in Carmarthenshire, about 1460.

Gutyn Owain was a learned bard and herald, and lived near Oswestry; he wrote the best copy of the British History, and left behind him several books of Pedigrees, &c. He flourished about the year 1480.

Dafydd Llwyd ab Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, Esq. lived at Mathafarn, near Machynlleth, in the county of Montgomery. He was a partisan and a great favourite of Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, and did all in his power to promote the views of that party against Richard III., A.D. 1480. He afterwards exercised his poetical

cians once in three years, upon which occasion they not only experienced the hospitality of the persons, to whose houses they resorted, but likewise received a certain fee, which, in the case of the Disciples in Music, was fixed by the Laws of Gruffydd ab Cynan, in the twelfth century, at twelve pence. That this practice was of very ancient date appears from some of the Triads, ascribed to Dyvnwal Moelmud, printed in the Archaiology under the title of "Triodd y Cludau," or Convention-Triads, and wherein one of the three "Conventions of Aid" was that administered to Bards "*yn eu cylch clera*," in their circuits of instruction. As to the time, in which Dyvnwal Moelmud is supposed to have flourished, see the CAMBRO-BRITON, No. 2, p. 47.—ED.

talents in favour of Henry VII. All his pretended prophecies and prognostications tended to that end.

Tudur Aled, a most excellent Bard, was so called on account of his residence being on the banks of the river Aled, in the county of Denbigh. He lived at Garth Geri Chwibryn, in the parish of Llansannan, and flourished about the year 1490. He was a friar of the Order of St. Francis, and wrote a poetical account of the miracles reported to have been performed at St. Winifred's Well, in the town of Holywell, as well as the fabulous history of that supposed holy virgin. He was also one of the followers of Sir Rhys ab Thomas\* of Dinevor in Carmarthenshire, and greatly attached to him; and wrote several poems in praise of his great achievements. Tudur Aled was a nephew and a pupil of Davydd ab Edmund.

Gruffydd Hiraethog was a pupil of Tudur Aled, and lived near the mountain of Hiraethog in Denbighshire. He was buried in the chancel of Llangollen Church. William Lleyn, Simwnt Fychan, William Cynwal, and Sion Tudur, all poets, were his pupils, or rather were instructed by him in the rules of Welsh prosody. He flourished about the year 1540.

William Lleyn was a very celebrated Welsh bard, and flourished in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He was a native of Llan Gian in Lleyn in Carnarvonshire; and tradition says he was an illegitimate son of one of the Griffiths of Cefn Amwlch, by whom he was brought up to the Church. He excelled all the other bards of his time in sublimity of thought and poetic fire, and was much admired for the sprightliness of his wit. His compositions are also remarkable for grave sentences and maxims of policy and wisdom. He had a poetical contest with Owain Gwynedd, a contemporary bard, which is still extant, and in my possession, besides 30 or 40 other poetical pieces, which have never been published. He was patronised by the families of Cefn Amwlch and Bodwrda in Lleyn, and also by that of Caer Gai in Merionethshire. He was instructed in the rules of prosody by Griffith Hiraethog; and the learned Archdeacon of Merioneth (Edmund Prys) received some assistance and advice from him in his Welsh poetical compositions. He died at Oswestry, where it is supposed

\* A long and very interesting Memoir of Sir Rhys ab Thomas is printed in the first volume of the Cambrian Register. It was written in the reign of James I. by a person, who claims relationship with Sir Rhys. This chieftain was born in 1451, and died in 1527: he was principally instrumental in placing Henry VII. on the English throne.—ED.

he was curate, and was buried there. Rhys Cain wrote a poetical elegy on his death, which is still extant.

Sion Brwynog, alias Sion ab Hywel ab Hugh, of Brwynog in Anglesey, was a good Welsh bard. He was proprietor of Brwynog, and flourished about the year 1550.

Edmund Prys, D.D., Archdeacon of Merioneth, was born at Gerddi Bluog, in the parish of Maentwrog, in that county. He was a student of St. John's college, Cambridge. He lived at Tyddyn Du, in the above parish of Maentwrog, of which he was Rector, and was buried in that Church. Dr. John Davies, the author of the Latin and Welsh Dictionary, dedicated his Latin-Welsh Grammar to him, in the preface to which he pays him many high compliments on his learning and knowlege of his native language. He had several poetical contests with William Cynwal and Hugh Machno, one of whom is said to have fretted and died of a broken heart, on account of the severity and poignancy of the Archdeacon's satire. As to the uncouthness of his version of the Psalms into Welsh metres, it must be attributed to the novelty of that kind of verse in our language, he being the first, as it is generally supposed, who introduced these new measures or versions, and for which he gave his reasons in a short preface. The same may be said of his cotemporary Rhys Prichard, Vicar of Llanymddyfri in Carmarthenshire, in his attempts at writing carols. All the old compositions of that kind are very lame both in North and South Wales, though since they are become very smooth and harmonious. The same remark will hold good, respecting the old English metres, compared with those of the present day.

Foulk Prys, Vicar of Clynnog, in the county of Carnarvon, was, as it is conjectured, the son of the Archdeacon, and flourished about the year 1680.

Huw Machno, alias Hugh or Huw Owen, lived at Penmachno about the year 1590, and had the temerity to contend in a poetical controversy with the Archdeacon. He was buried in Penmachno Church-yard, as appears by his tomb-stone, on which is still legible: "H. M. obiit 1637."

Twm Sion Cati, alias Thomas Jones, Esq., was a native of Tregaron in Cardiganshire. In his youth he was a notorious free-shooter and highwayman, but soon reformed, married a rich heiress, became a Justice of the Peace for the county of Brecknock, and resided in the town of Brecknock, otherwise Aber Hodni, or Aber Hoenddu. He lived about the year 1620.